

REMARKS

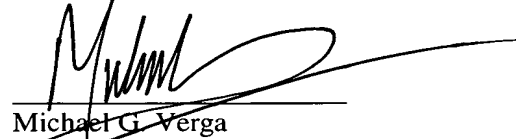
1. In response to the Office Action mailed April 28, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 45-54, 56-60, 68, 69, 76-88 and 92-101 were last presented in this application. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 45, 46, 68 and 69 were rejected, claims 47-60 were objected to, and claims 76-88 and 92-101 were allowed. By the foregoing Amendments, claim 45 has been amended, claim 60 has been cancelled, and no claims have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 45-54, 56-59, 68, 69, 76-88 and 92-101 will be pending in this application. Of these 39 claims, five (5) claims (claim 45, 76, 86, 95 and 99) are independent. These Amendments are believed not to introduce new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.
2. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 76-88 and 92-101 are allowable, and that claims 47-54 and 56-60 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their respective base and intervening claims.
3. Applicant has amended claim 45 to include the limitation of claim 60, and claim 60 has been canceled. Claim 45, as amended, includes all limitations of a claim that has been objected to (claim 60), its base claim (claim 45) and all intervening claims (none). Accordingly, claim 45, as amended, is in condition for allowance. In an interview conducted on July 13, 2006, the Examiner confirmed that the above amendment to claim 45 will place claim 45 in condition for allowance.
4. Independent claim 45 and dependent claim 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,557,064 to Isern-Flecha *et al.* (hereinafter, "Isern-Flecha"). Dependent claims 68 and 69 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Isern-Flecha. Claims 46, 68 and 69 depend directly or indirectly from claim 45 which, as noted, is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, these rejections are rendered moot by the foregoing amendments. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 10/628,295
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Response to Action
dated April 28, 2006

5. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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